

Now back in my district they are having to defend themselves from opportunistic, gas-grabbing criminals. Thieves are actually posting Internet videos discussing how to steal gas from cars. The kind of information that used to be shared in the prison yard has made its way into the "broadcast yourself" genre of Web sites. It is shocking, but it is not really surprising, because we have ignored the issue of providing a supply of energy in this country.

Americans may have given up on waiting for the majority party to ease the pain at the pump, so Americans may just file this under "desperate times call for desperate measures."

The Speaker may be able to ignore the Members who have asked for something to be done to address gas prices, primarily on the supply side. Eventually the consequences of the blatant disregard for rising prices is going to come home. Let's hope, let's hope, that this Speaker, this majority party, will take action before our families get robbed by thieves in the middle of the night.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday, June 14, the Orange County Water District will celebrate its 75th anniversary. Along with the other members of the Orange County delegation, I introduced House Resolution 1199 to honor this significant occasion.

The Orange County Water District's 75th anniversary is particularly meaningful as it comes just months after we opened up the largest groundwater treatment replenishment system in the Nation on January 10, 2007. The replenishment system is on the cutting edge of water reuse technology. It will purify 70 million gallons of water a day, providing clean water to over 100,000 families in Orange County.

The vision and the initiative by the District in establishing the groundwater replenishment system is the reason it received the 2008 Clair A. Hill Award and was named the Public Water Agency of the Year in 2008.

The District is a leader in identifying and creating new and exciting options to meet the water needs of California, of the Nation and of the world, and I hope that this resolution will make its way to this House quickly.

WE HAVE A PLAN

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Americans are puzzled; puzzled why gas prices have topped \$4 per

gallon and why House Democrats have done nothing. They are puzzled why America sits on an estimated untapped reserve of 175 trillion cubic feet of natural gas and 1.1 trillion barrels of oil, and yet we remain increasingly dependent on foreign oil.

The American people should know that there is a plan in Washington for energy independence. Republicans have a comprehensive strategy of exploration, innovation and conservation that will set America on a positive track. We have the tools and capacity to put our plan into motion. All we need are Democrats to step forward, join us, and tell the American people that Washington is no longer going to stand in the way of energy exploration in this country, that the short-term and long-term strategic and economic value of investing in America is our first priority.

Republicans have a plan. What remains to be seen is what the Democrats will do.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

FALSE REPUBLICAN RHETORIC ON ENERGY SOLUTIONS

(Mr. ETHERIDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, we have been hearing a lot of talk this week about high energy prices. The Republican talking point for the week is that Democrats are causing high gas prices because we won't allow drilling. That is false rhetoric.

It is the oil companies that are choosing not to drill on 80 percent of the leases already available for drilling in Alaska. It is the oil companies that are choosing not to increase drilling in the Naval Petroleum Reserve, one of the largest petroleum reserves in the Nation and one that President Clinton made available for drilling.

Meanwhile, it is the Democrats who have put 70,000 more barrels of oil per day on to the market by halting shipments to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. It is the Democrats that have passed legislation that would allow OPEC to be investigated for price fixing, legislation that the President has threatened to veto.

It is time to stop the rhetoric, Mr. Speaker. I challenge the President to demand fair play from OPEC and the Republican Party to stand up for the American people and not Big Oil.

FAILED ENERGY POLICY

(Mr. NEUGEBAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I would just echo what my colleague from South Carolina said. Where is the plan?

If the Democrats do not have a plan to lower energy costs for the American people, please bring some of the Republican proposals that we have already designed and which will begin to bring immediate relief.

The other night I had a teletown hall meeting and I was listening to the people in the 19th Congressional District of Texas. One person said, Congressman, I have to drive 100 miles every day to go to my job. She said, my gasoline has gone up, but my paycheck has not.

The most disturbing news was the gentleman who said, Congressman, I have to get dialysis three times a week. I have to drive 70 miles each way. He said, now I am down to trying to decide whether I am going to be able to buy food, gasoline, or the treatment for my diabetes.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the Democratic majority, who promised the American people a plan, to bring that plan to this House floor, instead of important legislation like we voted on yesterday, supporting the goals and ideals of the International Year of Sanitation. I know the American people are going to be very comforted that this body took up that legislation, and not energy legislation that would have brought relief for high energy costs.

HISTORIC JUMP IN JOB LOSSES REQUIRES IMMEDIATE ACTION

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, every month this year the Bush administration and the Bush economy has shed more jobs than it has produced, leaving millions of American workers competing against each other for the remaining jobs. We haven't seen this many people enter unemployment so quickly in over three decades.

Today, the House will consider providing up to 13 weeks of extended unemployment benefits to workers who have exhausted the 26 weeks of regular benefits. The bill will provide relief to American families struggling through these tough economic times.

Unemployment benefits are also important to economic recovery, with absolutely every dollar of the benefit checks going right back into the economy. And while the economy continues to weaken and costs for gasoline and food skyrocket every day, the need for government help is clear.

Unfortunately, our Republican colleagues continue to oppose these efforts to assist millions of out-of-work Americans, even though they supported a similar extension in 2002, when job loss numbers were not nearly as bad as they are today.

Mr. Speaker, as our economy continues to face tough times, Washington should explore every possible option to help those struggling. That is exactly what Democrats will do today in Congress, extend those benefits.